



LEEC

LOUISIANA ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION COMMISSION

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A Weekly Compilation of Environmental Education News from Across Louisiana

LEEC NEWS

SAVE THE DATE

The LEEC is nearing the final stage of planning for the Environmental Education State Symposium, to be held next year in Shreveport. The dates are February 21-22, 2014. This year's symposium will focus on watersheds, their functions, and the immense impact we have upon them. Updates will be posted at <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/louisiana-environmental-education-symposium> as more information becomes available.

SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE PROJECT (SIP) GRANTS

Thanks to everyone who submitted proposals for the 2013-2014 SIP Grants. Since the September 6 deadline passed, we have been involved in determining which of the numerous, worthy projects we'll be able to fund this year.

Sustainability Initiative Project funds are provided via a grant from the EPA Office of Environmental Education Sub-Grants Program to LDWF.

For more information visit <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/grant-opportunities>.

MEETING MINUTES AVAILABLE ON LDWF WEBSITE

Minutes from the November 2012, February 2013 and August 2013 meetings of the LEEC are now available at <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/leec-meeting-minutes>.

LOUISIANA ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

COALITION TO RESTORE COASTAL LOUISIANA LAUNCHES NEW BLOG

CRCL is excited to announce the launch of its new blog [Coastal Connections](#), an online forum designed to connect those who live, work, and play in coastal Louisiana to the latest scientific, technical, and policy information about their Sportsman's Paradise! With our Coastal Connections blog, we will provide information for our coastal stakeholders and communities, particularly concerning the most current topics in coastal protection and restoration, and connect them with scientific and policy information that is easily accessible and easy to understand. Our goal is to point out simple and straightforward connections between coastal science and policy and day to day life in coastal Louisiana.

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LouisianaEnvironmentalEducationCommission

LOUISIANA ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

NATIONAL ESTUARIES WEEK CLEANUP EVENT PLANNED AT ELMER'S ISLAND

Restore America's Estuaries is celebrating the 25th Anniversary of National Estuaries Day and announcing National Estuaries Week from September 23-29.

Information for dozens of events planned throughout the coastal states can be found at <http://www.estuaries.org/national-estuaries-day.html>.

The Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana is hosting its National Estuaries Week Cleanup event at Elmer's Island Saturday, September 28 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Attendees can register for the Elmer's Island cleanup at <https://www.thedatabank.com/dpg/316/personal2.asp?formid=event&c=846301>.



LDWF File Photo

WORKSHOPS

WETLAND REMOTE SENSING WORKSHOPS

The UL Lafayette Regional Application Center in conjunction with USGS National Wetlands Research Center is holding two Wetland Remote Sensing Workshops this fall.

The Introduction to Wetland Remote Sensing & Mapping session runs from October 30-November 1. It is a 3 day session of lectures, discussions, and hands-on exercises that emphasize the use of manual and cognitive interpretation skills of aerial photography/imagery in assessing and mapping wetland vegetation from species level to broad vegetative level classifications.

Included is a full day field trip to forest and coastal wetland areas to develop imagery recognition signatures and verify wetland interpretations made in the classroom. Course content has been designed for natural resource mapping specialist, field biologists, researchers, and others who deal with wetland wildlife habitat, environmental quality and impact assessments.

The Advanced Wetland Photo-Interpretation session, November 4-6, covers the development of a methodology for mapping wetlands projects; application of the Federal Geographic Data Committee adopted Classification of Wetlands & Deepwater Habitats of the US system; photo interpretation of seasonal color infrared aerial photographs/imagery; use of topographic maps and soil surveys, historical wetland aerial imagery & maps, other ancillary information as aids in the photo interpretation/analytical process; ground-truth techniques and utilization of other field data.

This course will include classroom lectures, classroom exercises in photo interpretation of wetland habitats with access to stereoscopic options and fieldwork.

The registration fee for each workshop is \$400. Interested parties should contact Ashley Kidd akidd@usgs.gov

TOOLS FOR YOUR CLASSROOM

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service has launched an updated Teachers and Students webpage at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/home/?cid=STELPRDB1167808>. The site is full of interactive media and downloadable content to add to your lessons plans.

WORKSHOPS, CONTD.

SOFT SOILS NEED SOLID GOVERNANCE: a 3-day subsidence management course NOVEMBER 21-23, 2013 NEW ORLEANS, LA

Topics that will be addressed include the causes of subsidence, the consequences (damage, loss of investments), and possible ways to cope with subsidence. The set-up of the course enables interactions with experts during the field trip and exchange of best practice solutions among a (global) group of delegates from subsiding cities.

The course is designed for government employees, such as policy makers and urban planners, as well as concerned stakeholders. We want to find people that want to improve the use of the urban subsurface and water management and to limit subsidence rates towards a sustainable acceptable level.

The event will be held on the campus of Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana. Field trips will also be part of the workshop.

The course is organized by the Water Institute of the Gulf (Baton Rouge, Louisiana), Tulane University (New Orleans, Louisiana) and Deltares Research Institute (The Netherlands). <http://www.deltares.nl/en/event/2041624/soft-soils-need-solid-governance>

The cost of this course is \$850. This will include lectures, field trip and a post-field trip dinner, and all lunches (Thursday, Friday and Saturday). For questions and registration, contact roelof.stuurman@deltares.nl.

CONFERENCES

KEEP LOUISIANA BEAUTIFUL ANNUAL CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 19-20 BATON ROUGE, LA

Join KLB in Baton Rouge for their annual conference as they celebrate 10 years of funding grants and awareness programs. Lt. Gov. Jay Dardenne will be the keynote speaker on Thursday and the event will close with the Annual Awards Luncheon on Friday at the Old Governor's Mansion.

Selected topics include:

- *Visioning 2023: Stakeholders Discuss What a "Clean 2023 Louisiana" is Like*
- *Who's Cleaning Up our Waterways?*
- *Bringing Community Together: The Litter Letter Project*
- *Engaging High School and College Students as Volunteers/Project Leaders*
- *Best Practices for Engaging Local Leaders to Advocate and Get Involved with Our Programs*

More information and registration details can be found at <http://keeplouisianabeautiful.org/>

REGISTRATION AND ABSTRACT SUBMISSION OPEN FOR GULF OF MEXICO OIL SPILL & ECOSYSTEM SCIENCE CONFERENCE

Early registration is now open for the conference to be held in Mobile, AL from January 26-29, 2014. Exploring the goals of "Collaboration, Integration and Synthesis," participants will share new scientific results among the disciplines, and develop recommendations or action plans for collaborative integration and synthesis of legacy products from post-Deepwater-Horizon-spill investment in science.

To attend the conference or submit an abstract, visit <http://gulfofmexicoconference.org/registration-abstract-submission/> .

Early registration rates for regular conference-goers is \$400; early student registration is \$150.

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

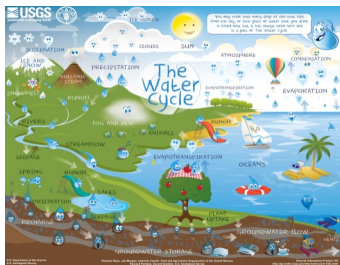
INTERNATIONAL OZONE DAY

Join the United Nations' call for "A healthy atmosphere, the Future We Want" during the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer or "Ozone Day." Celebrated on September 16, it marks the anniversary of the 1987 signing of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. This event highlights issues facing the ozone layer and its role in climate change. It is also a call to action for industries and individuals to participate in protecting our atmosphere from future damage.

For more information, visit the United Nations website:

http://ozone.unep.org/new_site/en/ozone_day_details.php

THE WATER CYCLE FOR KIDS



The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) have teamed up to create a water-cycle diagram for schools. The USGS [interactive diagram](#) allows users to "mouse around" the parts of the water cycle and view explanations, pictures, and more online. The diagram is available for three levels of students.

DUCKS UNLIMITED UNVEILS BREAKWATER PRIORITIZATION WEB APPLICATION

Ducks Unlimited recently announced the availability of its Breakwater Prioritization Report and Web Mapping Application, available at <http://sroarcgis.ducks.org/breakwater/?poe=release>. This decision-support tool is intended to prioritize shoreline protection needs along the Texas mid-coast portion of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) and encourages conservation partners and coastal landowners to utilize the newly available science to most efficiently direct wetlands restoration and protection efforts along the Gulf Coast.

"There is a need to protect coastal marsh from erosion along most of the GIWW, but we realize that costs associated with protecting the entire length are considerable," said DU Manager of Conservation Programs Todd Merendino. "That's why we developed the breakwater prioritization model to identify the areas most critical for protecting wetlands for waterfowl and other coastal wildlife. This model allows prioritization of conservation efforts and spending."

The GIWW has federal and state economic importance, as it provides an effective and safe transportation system. However, continued shoreline erosion and alteration or loss of marsh through saltwater intrusion impacts the ability of these wetland systems to support wintering waterfowl populations and other coastal fish and wildlife. From its initial construction to the current day, the GIWW has widened significantly, in some places to more than 10 times its original width, thus impacting adjacent coastal marshes of ecological and economic importance.

Through the use of advanced geospatial tools and techniques, DU developed the web application as a tool for landowners, agencies, private industry and conservation organizations to use in identifying immediate threats to coastal marshes and for prioritizing breakwater implementation. Development of the breakwater prioritization model was supported by the Meadows Foundation.

Through partnerships, DU has already designed and constructed more than 16,000 linear feet of rock breakwaters along the GIWW to protect critically important wetland habitats threatened by saltwater intrusion and erosion.

Rock breakwaters are robust, durable structures employed to slow wave energy, stabilize shorelines and support marsh growth along the GIWW shoreline. They also protect against degradation of interior marshes. However, implementation can be costly.

Ducks Unlimited emphasizes the potential for broad use and application of the model. Landowners that stand to lose coastal marsh, conservation partners concerned for the habitat needs of a variety of coastal and migratory species and industries with infrastructure along the GIWW can all benefit from using the prioritization model. More than 150 miles of priority shoreline have been identified through this exercise.